(c) No Memorandum of Understanding has been signed to carry out joint naval exercises with foreign navies during the next three years.

(d) Does not arise.

Demining of Snnagar-Muzaffarabad bus route

2984. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Army has demined the stretch from weak Bridge to wood Bridge on a bus route of Srinagar-Muzaffarabad, but the left and right banks are still strewn with antipersonnel mines; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to ensure that vehicles on this route do not skid in area filled with mines?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) (a) and (b) The entire route followed by the Srinagar-Muzaffarabad bus and areas on both sides of the road have been demined. Further, parapet walls and crash barries have been constructed to ensure safety of the vehicles playing on this route.

Harassment of women cadets at IAF Training Academy, Andhra Pradesh

2986. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the incidents of harassment of women cadets at IAF Training Academy in Dindkjul in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, what are the details of the incident and related harassment of women cadets;

(c) whether senior officers had turned a blind eye to such heppenings; and

(d) to what extent had the commandant of the Academy acted to take punitive measures against the guilty persons alongwith details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The allegations of harassment have been brought out by three Ex-

women Flight Cadets, (Ms. Anshu Singh, Ms. Sarabjit Jus and Ms. Preeti Bahl) who were admitted for training in the Air Force Academy (AFA), Hyderabad in January 2004 under the Short Service Commission for Women [SSC(W)] scheme. The three Ex-Flight Cadets failed in three or more exams during training, which exceeded the maximum number of failures permissible under the existing policy. Subsequently, the cadetship of Ms. Anshu Singh was terminated on 28.12.2004 and that of Ms. Sarabjit Jus and Ms. Preeti Bahl on 13.1.2005. The allegations of sexual harassment was first raised by Ms Sarabjit Jus on 25.1.2005 through a written complaint.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) A Court of Inquiry (Col) has been convened on 18.3.2005, which is still under progress. Action will be taken based on the findings of the Inquiry.

Throwing of passengers from running train by army personnel

†2986. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the incident therein some army personnel threw some persons out of the running train;

(b) the number of other similar incidents which have been brought to the notice of the Government;

(c) the action taken against the culprits of such incidents; and

(d) the measures being taken by Government to stop the recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the last two years, 3 similar incidents were reported.

(c) Out of the said cases, in two cases the accused were not found blameworthy by the Army Court of Inquiry. Regarding the third incident where the accused were found to be at fault, strict action under the military law has been ordered.

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.